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Governor

Roberta Gassman
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State of Wisconsin

Department of Workforce Development

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Secretary Gassman Honors Kenosha Firm for Safety Record

Vista International Package achieves major milestone: 4 years without lost-time injury

Kenosha – Department of Workforce Development Secretary Roberta Gassman today praised Vista International Packaging for reaching a major safety milestone of four consecutive years without an injury that resulted in lost work time.

“Vista International Packaging clearly values its employees by putting safety first,” Secretary Gassman said. “With this extraordinary achievement of four consecutive years without a lost-time injury, Vista International Packaging has set a great example for other employers.”

Michael Schulz, Vice President of Operations, said safety is their daily focus, not a topic at a once-a-month meeting, and described the company as thriving. Sales have increased significantly over the last two and half years, prompting the company to add 10 more jobs this year, he said. Vista International Packaging has nearly 130 employees working three shifts six days a week.

“Vista is not only a leading manufacturer, but an example for all our companies,” Governor Jim Doyle said with regard to the company’s record. “Wisconsin has a workforce that is second to none, and I want our workers to have quality jobs that support families, and as well as a safe work environment.”

Human Resources and Safety Manager Carol Ratliff said the firm is equally concerned about safety at home as well as work, and provides employees with materials on home safety and games with safety tips for their children.

According to Bryan Roessler, director of the Wisconsin Council of Safety, a company that goes one year without a lost-time injury is doing very well, but a business operating four consecutive years without a lost-time injury is doing a phenomenal job.

Vista International, a leading manufacturer and distributor of packaging for the food industry, reached the milestone on August 26. At a company celebration coinciding with September / Workforce Development Month, Secretary Gassman presented the Kenosha company an award on behalf of Governor Doyle.

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